

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 6-21 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 4 and 5 are "objected to".

New claims 22-24 are added and correspond, respectively, to "objected to" claims 2, 4 and 5 written in independent form to be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 22-24 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER MAXHAM (US PATENT NO. 6,411,407)

The Examiner correlates the optical reception section of claim 1 with that of item mux/demux west in FIG. 4 of Maxham, and further correlates received-long band item A in FIG. 4 of Maxham with that of the optical transmission section. While the Examiner's assertion regarding the correlation for the received-long band item A of Maxham may possibly be appropriate, the applicant's believe the more appropriate correlation for the optical reception section of claim 1 is to mux/demux east in FIG. 4 of Maxham.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the optical reception section is configured to receive a light inputted thereto and having a wavelength different from that of the transmitted light from the optical transmission section, to thereby *regenerate said light inputted thereto* as a data signal to be outputted from a data output port;

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner correlates the optical reception section of claim 1 to the mux/demux west in FIG. 4 of Maxham.

The mux/demux east of FIG. 4 of Maxham transmits a long band signal received from the spllter 72, but does NOT regenerate the received band signal. Accordingly, the mux/demux east of FIG. 4 of Maxham does not operate as an optical reception section as recited, for example, in

the amended claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the overall structure and nature of Maxham is significantly different than that recited, for example, in the amended claim 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

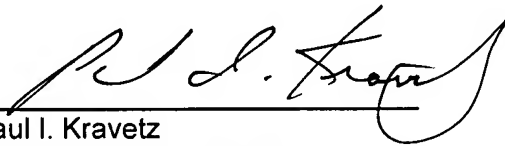
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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